



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

No. 25

Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, February 3, 2022)

The Senate met at 10 a.m. on the expiration of the recess and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Majestic God, who owns the world and everything in it, we honor Your Holy Name. Lord, You laid the foundations of the oceans and surrounded us with beauty. You permit us to daily borrow our heartbeats from You. Continue to bless and guide our lawmakers as they look to You for wisdom. May Your precepts provide a lamp for their feet and a light for their path.

Lord, guide them as they travel like pilgrims in a sometimes unfriendly world. Fulfill Your promise to supply their needs out of the abundance of Your celestial riches.

We pray in Your triumphant Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas R. Bush, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Biden administration spent the end of last week boasting that our economy

added back more jobs in January than some economists had predicted, but American families aren't buying their spin.

The working men and women of this country know painfully well that the Biden administration's economy is failing them. One typical recent survey showed a majority of Americans disapprove of the President's job performance, and Democrats' poor handling of the economy is a major factor.

So let's be clear. The country was always—always—guaranteed to add back jobs following the 2020 COVID recession. The Biden administration did not create the vaccines, it did not create this milder variant, and it is not owed particular credit for the fact that our economy is continuing to climb out of the crater caused by the 2020 lockdowns.

Our trajectory of adding back jobs has stayed remarkably consistent from late 2020 up through today. Job growth under President Biden has just kept bumping along the trajectory that he inherited—notwithstanding that Democrats blew trillions of dollars on supposedly job-creating policies in the meantime.

There has been no noticeable acceleration in job growth relative to the baseline that was forecast before Democrats took power, but inflation, on the other hand, has absolutely soared relative to those forecasts. Consumer prices exploded by 7 percent in 2021—the worst inflation in 40 years. More than 80 percent of Americans say the cost of everyday goods have shot up, and two-thirds disapprove of the job President Biden is doing to help their wallets.

Even though American workers have been earning pay raises, inflation is leaving them with less purchasing power than they had in the first place. Once you factor in inflation, the average American has gotten a 2-percent

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S549